

1898.

THE FOURTEENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

URBAN DISTRICT

OF

CROMER,

Together with the Reports of the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

CROMER :

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1899.

CROMER.

REPORT for 1898.

Except for minor ailments I have again to congratulate Cromer on a prosperous and healthy year, the low death rate of 11.8 per 1000 residents speaks for itself, this is practically the same as 1897 when it was 11.6.

The Summer population was a very high one as the season extended well into October, during which season I fear there was much overcrowding, and as some cases came under my notice I advised the Sanitary Authority to issue the following circular to all Householders :—

CROMER URBAN DISTRICT.

OVERCROWDING.

The Urban District Council having been informed of cases of overcrowding in Cromer during the Season, considers it wise to inform all Householders that 300 cubic feet of air space is the minimum amount for each human being in a sleeping apartment, and that anything less is a direct contravention of the laws of health, and will therefore have to be proceeded against as a nuisance.

EXAMPLE.

A room 10 feet by 8 feet and 8 feet high would contain in the clear about 600 cubic feet of air space, and would therefore be the smallest size allowed as a bedroom for two individuals.

Householders can always obtain information as to the air space of any room by applying to the Sanitary Inspector.

By Order,

P. E. HANSELL,

Clerk.

CROMER, *December, 1898.*

and I trust next year the law laid down will be carried out.

There were three cases of Enteric Fever, all notified within a few days, at the end of the Season. As I could not satisfactorily trace the origin of any of the three, and the water supply being above suspicion, I had some misgivings about the milk. On enquiry, I found one large dairy had its milk supply by rail from various sources, some coming from the district of Bury. I prevailed on the Authority to issue the following circular :—

IMPORTANT.

CROMER URBAN DISTRICT.

The Sanitary Committee, on the advice of their Medical Officer of Health, imperatively request that Householders throughout the Town will BOIL ALL MILK before using it, until further notice.

By Order,

A. F. SCOTT,

Sanitary Inspector.

CROMER, *October 17th, 1898.*

I found, on enquiry, that the Hotels and many Boarding Houses faithfully carried out the suggestion to boil all milk, although many of their customers objected to the taste of boiled milk. This would be obviated if they would use Sterilizers, in fact, the day is fast approaching when no sensible being will drink anything but sterilized milk. I think I am right in saying that no civilized nation but ours allows any dairy to sell milk that has not been previously sterilized, for it has been conclusively proved that both Enteric Fever and Tuberculosis are frequently derived from infected milk, to say nothing of summer diarrhoea and, probably, follicular sore throats.

I reported during the year that the two places used for Slaughter Houses in the town are totally unfit for this purpose, and, in fact, are nuisances.

On March 30th I attended, at the Town Hall, an enquiry, held by Dr. Sweeting, with reference to a site for the proposed Isolation Hospital, and afterwards visited with him two fields offered to the Authority. Finally, after much delay, the one at Roughton was sanctioned and

purchased, but that is as far as the matter has got. An endeavour to amalgamate with the Erpingham Union has proved a failure. It follows, therefore, that if Cromer is to have an Isolation Hospital she must carry out the scheme at her own expense, and have it under her sole control. We had a close shave of having an Epidemic of Scarlet Fever amongst the visitors this year, as two cases broke out in a Boarding House during the Season, the house at the time being full of visitors.

The doctors practising in the town tell me they had many cases of diarrhœa, and also of follicular tonsilitis. Some very faulty drains were unearthed in some of the back yards, and immediate steps were taken to put them right.

The most frequent causes of death during the last four years in order of frequency are :—

1	Bronchitis and Pneumonia.	4	Cancer.
2	Phthisis.	5	Renal.
3	Heart Disease.	6	Diphtheria.

Nearly 40 per cent. of deaths during the year occurred in people over 65 years.

By the kindness of Mr. R. Gurney, of Northrepps Hall, I am enabled to give the rainfall, taken by him, for 1898. Rain fell on 164 days.

Month.	Inches.
January	1.27
February	1.22
March	1.48
April	1.40
May	3.70
June	2. 9
July	1. 5
August	2. 4
September	0. 7
October	2.40
November	2.64
December	2. 4
Total	21.40

It will thus be seen that May was the wettest month, and the greatest Fall in 24 hours occurred on November 26th, when 1.30 inches fell.

Vital Statistics for 1898.

Area	...	...	...	1,007 Acres
Estimated Population	...	...	...	3,473
Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	755
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£27,195

Birth Rate.

Males.	Females.	Total.	
39	40	79	1 of these was illegitimate.
Birth Rate = 22.7 per 1,000 population.			

Death Rate.

Males.	Females.	Total.	
21	26	47	
Death Rate 13.5. Of this number 6 were visitors, therefore the corrected Death Rate is 11.8, against 11.6 in 1897, and 12.2 in 1896.			

The Causes of Death.

Bronchitis and Pneumonia	...	6
Phthisis	...	4
Heart Disease	...	6
Cancer	...	2
Cerebral	...	8
Renal	...	1
Influenza	...	3
Other Diseases	...	17
Total	...	47

Deaths at Different Ages.

Under 1 year	...	9
Over 1 and under 5 years	...	2
„ 5 „ 15	...	1
„ 15 „ 25	...	1
„ 25 „ 65	...	24
„ 65 and upwards	...	10
		47



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TABLE O

During the Year 1898, in the Cromer Urban District, c2

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public in- stitutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.								1	2
	At all ages	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards		Smallpox.	Scarlatina.
CROMER	47	9	2	1	1	24	10	Under 5 5 upwds		
FLETCHER CONVALESCENT HOME }								Under 5 5 upwds		
COTTAGE HOSPITAL ...								Under 5 5 upwds		
TOTALS	47	9	2	1	1	24	10	Under 5 5 upwds		

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into

Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto.								Under 5 5 upwds.		
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto.	6				1	5		Under 5 5 upwds.		

(B)

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, and

Coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during
Diseases, Age

	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER.					
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1898.			1 Smallpox.	2 Scarlatina.	3 Diphtheria.	4 Membranous Croup.	5 Typhus.	6 Enteric or febrile.
CROMER	2197	3473	79	Under 5 5 upwds		3 7	1			2
FLETCHER CONVALESCENT HOME }				Under 5 5 upwds						
COTTAGE HOSPITAL.										
TOTALS	2197	3473	79	Under 5 5 upwds		3 7	1			2

ed according to **Diseases, Ages, and Localities.**

[illegible][illegible]

Year 1898, in the Cromer Urban District; classified according to
Localities.

[illegible]

Infant Mortality.

Nine deaths occurred in Infants under the age of one
 = 2.5 per 1,000 population.
 = 113.9 per 1,000 births.

Phthisis.

There were 4 deaths from Phthisis.
 = 1.1 per 1,000 population.
 = 85.1 per 1,000 deaths.

Zymotic Diseases.

There were 2 deaths from Zymotic Diseases.

Erysipelas	...	...	...	1
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	1

= .57 per 1,000 population.
 = 25.3 per 1,000 births.

Cases Notified under Notification Act.

Scarlet Fever	...	10
Diphtheria	...	1
Enteric Fever	...	3
		—
		14
		—

I have to thank the Medical Men practising in Cromer for their kind co-operation in carrying out the work of sanitation in the district.

I have also to thank Mr. Scott, the Inspector of Nuisances, for his ready aid under all circumstances.

SAM BARTON, M.O.H.,

34, Surrey Street, Norwich.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, CROMER.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1898.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

Infectious Diseases.

During the year 10 cases of scarlet fever, 3 of typhoid, and 1 of diphtheria were notified, and had immediate attention.

In each case Disinfectants and "Instructions" were supplied to the occupiers of the infected houses and isolation of the patients and thorough disinfection of the premises and goods carried out as far as possible.

The "Trillats" disinfector has been used for disinfecting, and found to be convenient in application.

Notice to Boil Milk.

In the autumn the Medical Officer considered it desirable to advise each householder to boil the milk, and a handbill was prepared and delivered to each house in the town.

Isolation Hospital.

This question has engaged the attention of the Council throughout the year.

An enquiry was held by Dr. Sweeting, at which the Windham Trustees opposed the purchase of the Roughton site, but, after a lengthened enquiry and inspection of the site by the Local Government Board Inspector, it was approved of, and a loan has since been sanctioned and the site purchased.

Negotiations were again opened with the Rural District Council of Erpingham with a view to amalgamation, and a Committee of the Cromer Council met a Committee at Beckham, but as terms could not be agreed upon the matter has fallen through, and the Council having decided to build for six beds the plans have been altered accord-

ingly, and are now before the Local Government Board awaiting final approval.

Public Conveniences.

The loan for the conveniences under the "Red Lion" steps having been granted, this work is now in hand, and will be ready—all being well—for next season. Provision will be made for W.C., Lavatory, and Cloak Room accommodation for both sexes, which will be a great acquisition to visitors.

Sewer Outfall Pipe.

The loan to carry out the proposal of the Council to extend the present outfall pipe 300 feet further into the sea not being sanctioned by the Local Government Board, the Council have had under consideration the "Septic" tank system, and a deputation having inspected the works at Exeter, and reported favourably thereon, the Council have decided to have plans prepared in accordance with that system, and to apply for a loan forthwith.

Pig Keeping.

The recurring nuisance from pig keeping on the Runton Road, which has been such a source of complaint for several years past, has been remedied at last by the owners of the allotments, after representation from the Committee, deciding to remove the allotments to a less public part of the town.

House Scavenging.

The additional vans recommended last year having been purchased, it was anticipated that this work would have been able to be carried out with even more efficiency than hitherto, and regulations were made that each house should be visited three times in each week for the summer months, and twice a week for the winter months.

As soon as the Contractor for the year (who was fresh to the work) commenced his duties complaints came in of neglect, and, although he was cautioned several times, it was evident that he was not able to carry out the contract satisfactorily, and it became absolutely necessary to take the work entirely out of his hands. The Surveyor had in consequence just before the commencement of the season to organise a staff with the Council's workmen to carry out this work. This he succeeded in doing, and the town has been kept clear since.

The cost of this work is much increased, because many of the householders have not provided sanitary receptacles according to the regulations.

Sanitary Census Work.

The work of testing drains, etc., under the Sanitary Census has been proceeded with, and notices served where defects discovered, and the necessary work caused to be executed.

Overcrowding.

The Committee, acting under the advice of the Medical Officer, has had handbills prepared and delivered to each householder on this question, stating what is the minimum cubic space allowed for each person.

Flushing Sewers.

As in the previous year, the systematic inspection of the manholes and flushing sewers and gulleys has been carried out.

The six hundred gallon water-van with 4 in. outlet for gulleys and 12 in. for sewers has been found very useful.

The following is the record of work done :

Inspecting and clearing manholes	-	2450
Flushing sewers	-	134

and every gulley in the town flushed at least 4 times.

Vent Shafts.

Seven additional 6 in. ventilation shafts 36 ft. high have been fixed during the year with benefit to the sections of sewers connected therewith.

Street Paving.

The advantage to the streets of the tar asphalte paving becomes every year more apparent.

In addition to being cheaper to maintain, the streets are a comfort to the users as well as to the adjoining residents, and they are easier to scavenge and water and much more sanitary than ordinary macadam or wood block roads.

Approval of Plans under Bye-Laws.

During the year 78 sets of plans, etc., have been submitted for new buildings or alterations to existing buildings and for road and sewer making. Of these 72 were approved,

The drains to all new houses have been tested with smoke before being passed. This involved considerable labour, but it is very desirable that all drains should be satisfactory.

The following nuisances have been dealt with, and the necessary notices served, and the work has been or is being carried out to comply with same.

- 2 Drains and W.C. drains not ventilated.
- 2 W.C's. not ventilated.
- 2 W.C's. with defective water supply.
- 4 Unblocking drains.
- 2 Relay defective drainage.
- 7 Connecting house-drains to sewer.
- 19 Testing old house drains.
- 15 Testing new do.
- 5 Obstructions to footway.
- 18 Pigs kept so as to be a nuisance.
- 52 Dust and refuse complaints attended to.
- 1 Sink waste defective.
- 2 Defective vent shafts.

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I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

A. F. SCOTT.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CROMER.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR FOR THE YEAR 1898.

To the Chairman and Members of the Highways Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

Public Sewers.

Sewers have been laid in Jubilee Lane and Jubilee Lane back passage, and house connections have been made thereto and a surface water drain to Station Road, Suffield Park.

Other Sewers.

The following sewers have been laid by the owners :—
In St. Mary's Road and St. Mary's and Vicarage Road Passages ; In Upper New Street off Mill Lane ; In Cabbell Road back passage and in Canada Road to Cabbell Road.

Ventilation Shafts.

In all seven additional ventilating shafts have been fixed four for the Macdonald Estate, one for Suffield Park, one for Cross Street and Loke, and one for Cabbell Road back passage, and have been found to well ventilate the sewers connected therewith.

Road Making.

The making up of Station Road, Suffield Park, by the Council has been commenced this year.

St. Mary's Road has been continued to the Loke, kerb fixed and carriage way rolled and asphalte paths laid as far as buildings are erected.

Mill Lane, begun last year, has had only the foundation laid to carriage way and rolled and gullies fixed, but no broken metal on carriage way nor paths nor kerb laid.

Ordinary Road Maintenance.

The HALL ROAD has been coated with broken flints and marl, from Metton turn to the Boundary, and repairs to other parts of the road and skirting have been done from end to end.

The HOLT ROAD has been coated with granite from the corner of Sandy Lane to the top of the first hill, and repairs to other parts of the road and skirting done from end to end.

The RUNTON ROAD has been coated with flints and marl for 250 yards beyond Macdonald Estate and sides skirted throughout.

The OVERSTRAND ROAD has been coated in various places where required, and kerb fixed and tar path laid from Goldsmith's School to Cliff Lane, and cinder paths have been formed and maintained from Carrington Villas to the Boundary, and from Herne Close to Mr. Sandford's farm.

Plans have been made for widening by Mr. Hoare's Stables and also by Mr. Rust's Garden, and by Mrs. Pearson's House.

The NORWICH ROAD has been channelled with 12 in. by 6 in. granite channel from Amis's Farm to the Station Steps, the roadway has been made up and regulated to the channel and a coating of broken granite carried to the Station approach. The channel is urgently required further down the road. The road has been prepared ready for tar paving from Vicarage Road to the Roughton turn.

Work done under the £3500 Street Improvement Loan.

Considerable work under this head has been done; Prince of Wales' Road, Hamilton Road, Norwich Road from Overstrand Road Corner to Vicarage Road, West Street from Cabbell Road to Station Road have been laid with tarred slag, and Garden Street redressed.

Flushing Sewers, &c.

The ordinary work of examining and flushing the sewers and cleansing the gullies has been regularly attended to, and several additional gullies have been fixed.

All gullies and sewers have been regularly flushed, and every manhole has been systematically inspected and its condition and flushing recorded.

The following table shews the work done during the year under this system:—

Inspecting and cleansing manholes	-	2,450
Flushing manholes	-	134

and every gulley in the town has been flushed at least four times.

Street Scavenging and Street Watering.

The street scavenging has received every attention. During the season the streets were cleaned up early every Sunday morning.

The total amount of water registered as used in street watering and flushing during the year was over $1\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons. This was above last year owing to the dryness of the season and the entire length of the main roads being watered.

Street Lighting.

Six additional lamps have been put up in various parts of the town on the recommendation of a Special Lighting Committee, who have thoroughly gone into this question, making special investigations and a general revision of the lamps throughout the town. They have reported that 38 additional lamps are required.

It is highly desirable that one body only should have control both of the maintenance and lighting.

East Gangway.

After having had this question of improving the East Gangway approach to the beach in hand for some years, a loan has been obtained for the work from the Local Government Board. This much needed improvement is now likely to be carried out.

Public Conveniences.

These are now being built by Mr. Smith, builder, Norwich, under the "Red Lion" steps. They will provide W.C's., Lavatories, etc., and Cloak Room accommodation for both sexes, and are to be finished for the coming season.

Sewer Outfall Pipe.

The Local Government Board, after an enquiry, having decided not to sanction a loan for the extension of the present outfall pipe, the Council has had under consideration the "Septic" tank system, and a deputation having inspected its working at Exeter reported strongly in favour of its adoption.

The Council having decided to adopt that system, the necessary plans are now being prepared preparatory to applying to the Local Government Board for a loan.

I have the honour to be

Your Obedient Servant,

A. F. SCOTT.